



Luxembourg, 4 January 2023

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: UNIMORE Campus Upgrade
 Project Number: 2022-0459
 Country: Italy
 Project Description: The Project includes new construction, renovation and restoration of buildings within the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia in Italy. The Project aims to construct, renovate or restore over 20 000m² of space for academic, research, administration and student accommodation in campuses across the two cities. The Project also includes the supply of new equipment for the University.

EIA required: no

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

This Project is a multi-component investment loan comprising the construction and renovation of higher education and research buildings as well as the purchase of new equipment to enhance and modernise the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (Università degli studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia) estate.

University buildings of this kind are not specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, though Annex II of the Directive covers the Project in relation to urban development. In Italy, there is a threshold for urban development projects and this Project is below that threshold taking into account all of the proposed project components and their locations. Therefore, the Project and its components are not subject to an EIA procedure.

The Promoter is constructing two new buildings to provide space for its expanding academic programme offer and to provide additional student accommodation during their studies. The new buildings will be designed and built according to Italian nearly zero energy buildings (NZEB) standards and are likely to include some passive and active design measures such as the installation of best available energy efficient technologies, onsite renewable energy apparatus and enhancements to the building fabric. The EIB will require the Promoter to provide a copy of the building permits for the new buildings.

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.



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The Project also includes three components comprising the renovation of three historic (and protected) buildings that are within the central old town of the city, which the Promoter will transform into additional student accommodation as well as academic and research spaces. The buildings being renovated are considered as major renovations. For the new and renovated buildings, the EIB will require the Promoter to provide copies of the design stage energy performance simulation, model or audit or equivalent and a copy of the energy performance certificate (EPC or APE in Italian) on completion. The Promoter has confirmed that the Project components are neither located in a Natura 2000 site nor in other designated or protected sites.

The Promoter has included climate adaptation measures in the design solutions for the Project's investments. Introducing green roofs and high performing insulation coverings to reduce the impact of increasing temperature events, installing lower water consuming devices and demineralising a car park creating green space at the campus on Via Campi.

The Project has been assessed for Paris alignment and is considered to be aligned both against low carbon and resilience goals.

EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework

The counterparty Università degli studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia is in scope and screened out of the PATH framework, because it is not considered high emitting and/or high vulnerability.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Project will provide additional facilities to modernise the teaching and learning environments meeting the needs of the university's growing student population and will also support increased research activity at the University, thus enabling increased access for students to higher education, increasing the formation of human capital. These additional facilities will enable the university to expand generating additional employment and attract more students, high calibre staff and researchers and strengthen collaborations with commercial and industrial partners to smooth the transition into employment of their graduates.

The project is expected to have a positive impact on gender equality, as it supports a higher education institution with a clear gender equality plan. Specifically, UNIMORE aims to improve gender balance in STEM study programmes and women's safety and fight gender-based violence in its premises. It also targets to improve the application of gender procurement in the acquisition of goods and services and application of gender-sensitive criteria to tenders.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Project components form part of a strategic effort to expand and modernise the higher education facilities enhancing the working environment for staff and students alike. Due to the investment and use of new materials and technologies, the new and renovated buildings will increase the overall energy efficiency and preparedness for future physical climate change risks at the university. The EIB will require the Promoter to provide:



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- Copies of the building permits for the new buildings and where required for the renovated buildings;
- Water consumption baseline data before and actual water consumption for a 12-month period after the completion of the works for the new and renovated buildings within the project;
- Copies of the energy assessment, model or audit or equivalent for the design stage ensuring the energy performance complies with the NZEB standard; and
- Copies of the energy performance certificate on completion of the new and renovated buildings.

In light of the above, the overall environmental and social rating of the Project is therefore considered to be acceptable for the Bank's financing